MAFFS

Elements

- Eight Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems (MAFFS) in three Air National Guard units and two Air Force Reserve units

- Air National Guard Units:

  - **145th Air Wing**
    Charlotte, NC

  - **146th Air Wing**
    Channel Islands, CA

  - **153rd Air Wing**
    Cheyenne, WY

- Each unit consists of five pressurized tanks and two 18-inch discharge tubes, which can hold and disperse 3,000 gallons of retardant -- in 1,000 gallon increments or all at once

- Aircraft can be refilled with retardant every eight minutes

- Retardant or water is released from the tank in under five seconds, through two tubes at the rear of the plane

- Ability to respond within 24 hours

- MAFFS aircrew receive specialized training and annual refresher training

"Air tankers are a critical component of the fire suppression program"
~Mark Rey, USDA under secretary for natural resources and environment

Modular Airborne Firefighting System

Mission: Provides the United States Forest Service with additional aerial fire fighting assets to assist after the capabilities of commercial and contract air tankers have been exhausted.

Overview: In the 1970's Congress established the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS) to assist in the wildfire suppression program. MAFFS use Air National Guard aircraft to release retardant or water from special tanks in less than five seconds through two tubes at the rear of the plane. Today a total of eight MAFFS units are operated by the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve.

MAFFS aircraft loaded with retardants are guided to fire-ravaged areas by United States Forestry Service piloted aircraft. MAFFS units do not require any aircraft modifications and can be loaded or unloaded using specially designed trailers located at each MAFFS operational unit.

MAFFS units are on standby during the fire season and can respond within 24 hours of notification.

Air National Guard MAFFS crews have fought wildfires in the United States, Europe, Africa and Indonesia.

Learn More:

http://www.ngb.army.mil/features/disasterprep/default.aspx

For more information contact NGB Public Affairs (Media Desk) 703-607-2584